



Give Politicians a Chance! Declare Out of Touch TU Leaders.

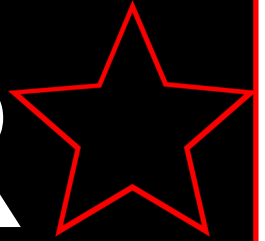


Solidarity with Bimbo Workers



Meanwhile in Ballymena

BLACK STAR



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Well, they're back, and this time it's personal! We can all now look forward to a land of milk and honey, if the politicians at Stormont are to be believed, they've done it for the workers! And no doubt, the trade union leaders will break their arm trying to pat themselves on the back as they enter into a new phase of working for as well as working with government.

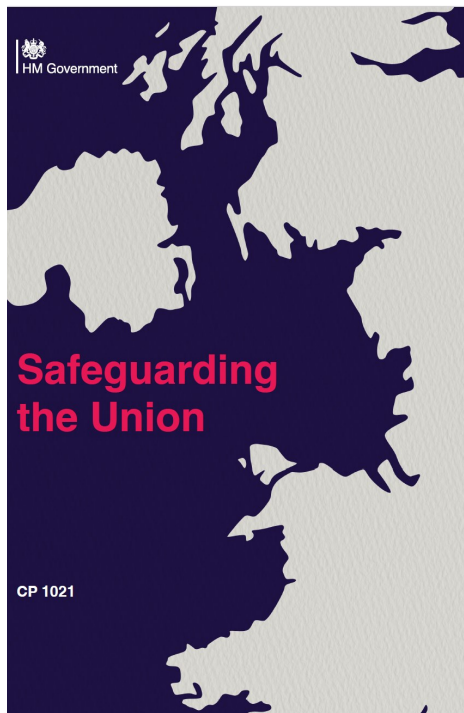
How things have changed in this fiftieth anniversary year of the Ulster Workers' Council strike. That was organised to bring down a government and it succeeded, it was probably the single most successful strike in the history of these islands. Reactionary, but still a lesson in the potential power of organised workers. The latest strikes, many believed were for restoration of our pay to pre-'crisis' levels but it seems for the Trade Union 'leadership' they explicitly aimed at restoring a government.

'The trade unions expect to contribute to the policy programme of the restored legislative assembly and the NI Executive' NIC-ICTU's response to the agreement

Stormont open for business

Buried in the new agreement, 'Safeguarding the Union', that paved the way for the restoration of government up on the hill is a very clear expression of what lies in store for us. Annex B, article 30 states that the government recognises they had stalled in the process of devolving corporation tax powers to Stormont in recent years, but 'will change this, and swiftly progress' the 'urgent work' once the First Minister is in place. Tax breaks for billionaires to come in and set up shop, that driver of foreign direct investment every single major political party supports.

The fight is only starting, folks!



'Giving them space'

The next wave of public transport strikes set for 15 February are among the strikes cancelled by the leadership of the trade unions.

This is apparently about giving the politicians 'space' and 'time' to sort out the long-running pay dispute, a move welcomed wholeheartedly by new infrastructure minister, John O'Dowd and the finance minister, Caoimhe Archibald. This is not exactly surprising and workers need to be on their guard about the cosy relationship developing between the union bosses and the political ones. Their civic society social partnership model

means we'll all get fucked over while they get the ministerial limo and a seat at the big tables. I know the 'window' we'd like to give them, one we can fuck them out of!

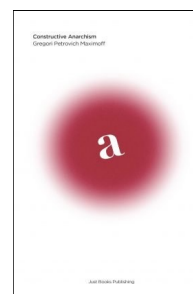
A 'pause' in the strike only hands the initiative to the politicians, but then the strike was so patently engineered in many ways to pave the way for the restoration of Stormont. The sickening speeches from all of them about how much they care for and value the public sector workers and got back into government to support them belies what's in store in the next while.



Just Books Publishing



Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist

international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£11.99



The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea*.

Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism,

this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years...

(Brian Morris on *The Idea*)

isbn 9781739723712

£15.00

Available from:

<https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/>

Solidarity with Bimbo workers



We extend our love and solidarity to our good comrades in the CNT-AIT La Marina Alta in their campaign to support the workers under threat of losing their jobs at the Bimbo factory in El Verger, near Alicante. The Verger factory is an old Spanish one bought up years ago by the Mexican-US multinational baking firm, Bimbo. The bosses' decision to throw 100 people out of work for no reason has led to a strike and protests, but it seems that the yellow unions involved may sell out the workers for a slightly improved compensation deal when more and greater militancy is what

is needed. Bimbo are in breach of the law for not providing an explanatory report on the closure and giving details of the processes to be followed. However, as our La Marina Alta comrades have said: 'We are clear that whoever makes the law, cheats, and we think that the only realistic option left, that has worked in many similar cases in the past is direct action: the workers' struggle agreed upon collectively among equals...Bimbo must withdraw its threat to close the factory, or if it does not want to run it in spite of making profits, that it hand over control to the self-management of its workers'.

And it is not only in Spain where these fuckers are at it. Bimbo has also announced plans to close its factory in Albuquerque in New Mexico, a city with 1 in 5 school-aged kids living in poverty and higher deprivation markers than the rest of the US, the third highest in the country. About 150 jobs will go when the factory closes its doors in April with plans, as in Spain, to shift production elsewhere to maximise their profits. Workers are 'represented' by Local 351 of the famous International Brotherhood of Teamsters, who instead of fighting with guns, knives, sticks and fists, as we might have expected in the past, are quietly working to help the employers provide decent severance packages. At least our Spanish comrades have a bit more fight in them still.

NO TOLERAR NI UN SOLO DESPIDO!
INFORMATÉ Y LUCHA!

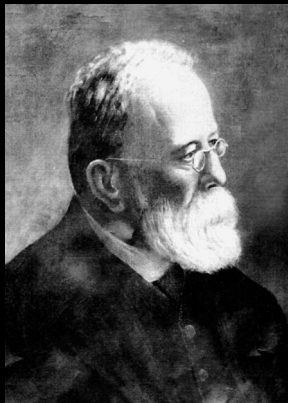
Meanwhile... in Ballymena, James Blunt?



Thought I glimpsed uber fuckwit, James Blunt wandering through the town the other day, only to read later that Professor Brian Cox was on a visit to the Braid Arts Centre. Apparently, he called for our politicians to be launched into space, though sadly suggested bringing them back as well. The idea of this was that it would give them a broader perspective and greater empathy. Some fuckin' chance! Laika, the space dog, probably has more understanding of the planet than they do.

Someone should have pointed Cox to Lough Neagh and the environmental disaster there caused in part by the efforts of our new First Minister when she headed up agriculture. The local council has decided to take control of the issue recently and are planning, wait for it... new signs warning bathers not to take a dip!

Anselmo Lorenzo Asprilla



Fatherland, fatherland! Land of the fathers! What a bloody mockery for the man stripped of land, of home, of science; deprived of hygiene; lacking education; reduced to a wage, and still forced to be defender and enforcer of his dominators!

Anselmo Lorenzo Asprilla (21 April 1841 - 30 November 1914) was an important figure in the development of anarchism and anarcho-syndicalism in Madrid, Barcelona, Andalusia, across the Iberian peninsula and the planet. Playing a key role in the section of the first international in Spain (the FRE or Spanish Regional Federation) he advocated workers control, libertarian socialism and was opposed to the centralising tendencies and those who sought to 'control' the state in the international. Next to nothing of his writing is available in English which leaves a significant gap in the history and theoretical development of our movement in the anglophone world.

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.



Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which is affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985. We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...



The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com

